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RWANDA

Talking Points for A/S John Shattuck

August 4, 1994

- o I am here to speak to you about the U.S. Government's views on the need for reconciliation and accountability in order to restore stability to Rwanda. We share your concern that those responsible for genocide be punished, and that conditions of stability are created to encourage the return of Rwandan refugees. I hope that we can share our views as to how best to achieve both reconciliation and accountability.

Humanitarian/Refugee Return

- o We should thank the new government for its excellent cooperation on humanitarian issues in recent days, including welcoming of U.S. plans to deploy in Kigali, granting blanket clearance for flights, and quickly agreeing to accord Embassy admin and technical staff status to DoD personnel.
- o We should welcome the RPF's/government's statements that they would accept human rights monitors and will not screen returning refugees.
- o We need to urge the new government (particularly RPF) to broaden its representation as much as possible to reassure the population and foster reconciliation, consistent with the basic principles of Arusha.
- o We must stress to the new government the importance of safeguarding the lands and homes of refugees and displaced persons. The refugees need reassurances that their property will be available to them when they return.
- o We should remind the government of its responsibility to assure the security of refugees and displaced persons wishing to return home.
- o We have been increasingly concerned about the need for UN human rights monitors in Rwanda, not only to provide information about the human rights situation, but also to help rebuild the confidence of the returning refugees by facilitating dialogue at a local level. UNDP has agreed that this is a matter of urgency and has promised the UN Human Rights Center to provide 20 volunteers immediately, aiming for a target of 50 within a short period.
- o We share with the High Commissioner for Human Rights a commitment to strengthening confidence in the respect for human rights in Rwanda to encourage refugees to return and to begin the process of rebuilding Rwanda as a viable country.

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- 2 -

UNAMIR/Operation Turquoise

- o We should encourage continued close cooperation between UNAMIR and the government, such as the joint patrols.
- o We must push the RPF members of the government to accept participation in UNAMIR by the Senegalese and other African contingents which participated in Operation Turquoise.
- o We should outline for the new government and UN officials the efforts the U.S. has made on the humanitarian front and to speed UNAMIR deployment.
- o We should point out the valuable contribution made by Operation Turquoise and counsel the new government against pushing for a rapid French withdrawal, which might only cause a "Goma II" in Bukavu.

Accountability

- o We should reassure the RPF/government of our commitment to see that those guilty of genocide are brought to justice. We are in the lead in pushing for rapid completion of the Commission of Experts' work and establishment of a follow-on international tribunal. We are also working to see that suspected war criminals are detained in the interim.
- o We should raise with the RPF reports of summary executions and urge that the new government respect due process.

(see also separate L talkers)

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